



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS

Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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FOUNDER  
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montano

VICE CHAIRPERSON  
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio  
Mr. Vito Cannella  
Ms. Rita Hall  
Mr. John A. Hammargren  
Mr. Carl E. Moore

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS**  
**MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**MAY 16, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of Yolanda King, daughter of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present**

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó

Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos

Frank S. Bacio

Vito Cannella

**Excused Absences**

Rita Hall

John A. Hammargren

Carl E. Moore

**Others Present**

Lt. Deborah Jones, Sheriff's Department

Frank Imperial, Probation Department, Central Placement

Michael J. Varela, Director, Dorothy F. Kirby Center

Candace Rhue, Auditor-Controller

**Staff**

Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff

Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

### **DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON FACILITY OPERATIONS**

**Probation Department:** Mr. Frank Imperial reported the following:

- Erickson Center Group Home has been ordered to shut down by mid-June, but the center said it needs more time for transitioning clients.
- In the past month there have been 25 reported AWOLs from Probation Camps.
- The Commission was invited to the Graduation ceremonies on June 9, 2007 at USC for the clients from Probation Camps.

Mr. Michael Varela, Dorothy F. Kirby Center, Probation Department, reported the following:

- He recently attended the National School Boards Conference in San Francisco where multi-media instruction for Probation Camp clients was discussed.
- Dorothy Kirby has an on-site therapist and Department of Mental Health staff to provide the clients with individual attention.
- The Commission was invited to the annual prom at Dorothy Kirby on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

**Auditor-Controller's Department.** Representative Candace Rhue had nothing to report.

**Sheriff's Department:** Representative Lt. Deborah Jones had nothing to report.

**Department of Children and Family Services:** No representative present.

**Department of Mental Health:** No representative present.

### **APPROVAL OF MAY 2, 2007 MINUTES OF REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING**

On motion of Commissioner Bacio, seconded by Commissioner Stathatos, and unanimously carried, the minutes of May 2, 2007 were approved with the following corrections:

- Facility Reports, Page 3, Paragraph 5, should be changed from Le May Group Home to *San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health (Le May Street)*...
- On same paragraph, page number 62, #4 should be changed to 55, #3...
- Facility Reports, Page 3, Paragraph 8, should be changed from Atoll Group Home to *San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health (Atoll Street)*...
- On same paragraph, page number 62, #5 should be changed to 55, #4...

- Remove San Fernando Juvenile Hall because *it is the same facility as Barry J. Nidorff Juvenile Hall...*

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Montañó gave the following reports:

- "County Seeks Gangs Strategy", from The Los Angeles Times, May 9, 2007 reported although (297) people have died from natural disasters (5,752) people have died from gang violence in Los Angeles County.
- Chair Montañó reported Commissioners Bacio, Cannella, Hall, Moore, Stathatos and herself attended the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles County Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony on May 9, 2007.

Chair Montañó and the Commissioners thanked the various Department representatives for their participation and reports.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Fund currently has \$1,158.50.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Janice Davis, Commission Services Staff, reported the following:

- Next Wednesday's meeting is cancelled because the Commission will be attending the Leadership Conference.
- At the present time the title "group homes" cannot be added to the Sybil Brand Website Press Release as requested by Commissioner Moore, but may be added at a later date when the ordinance is revised.
- Ms. Elizabeth Howard of the Department of Children and Family Services notified Ms. Davis that the DCFS Graduation will be on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 and the Commission is invited.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Montano read the following letters:

- Dr. Ronald Chaplain, President of the Los Angeles Trade Technical College sent a card thanking the Sybil Brand Commission for their generous donation of (2) scholarships in the amount of \$250 each.
- A notice from the Toberman Settlement House announcing their opening on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007. It will be a facility that works specifically with gang members, young children, and other special youths.

## **FACILITY INSPECTION REPORTS FROM MAY 2 TO MAY 15, 2007**

### **LA Youth Network - 37, #4 – Commissioner Stathatos**

This facility was visited on May 3, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Department of Children and Family Services social workers do not visit on a regular basis.

### **Family Solutions - 20, #5 - Commissioner Hammargren**

This facility was visited on May 7, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

### **Dubinoff Center - 17, #4 – Commissioner Stathatos**

This facility was visited on May 8, 2007, and found in outstanding condition. The home was completely remodeled with state of the art improvements.

### **Mozell Pennington Boys Home - 70, #2 – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore**

This facility was visited on May 8, 2007, and found to be in poor condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Bathroom needs grouting; bathtub needs to be relined; house rules are not posted; back yard was dirty and littered with overgrown weeds.

### **Bright Future – 9, #2 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaño**

This facility was visited on May 8, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Rug needs shampooing.

### **Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station - Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore**

This facility was visited on May 10, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition.

**Area of Concern:** Floor was in bad condition, but installation of new flooring was promised.

### **Dubinoff Center - 17, #3 – Commissioner Stathatos**

This facility was visited on May 10, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition. The home will be remodeled with state of the art improvements.

### **GLASS House St. Andrews – 26, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos**

This facility was visited on May 14, 2007, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

**Bright Future – 9, #1 – Commissioner Montañó**

This facility was visited on May 15, 2007, and was found to be in poor condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Fan not installed after asked to do so several months ago; bedrooms were messy; keys not accessible.

**Lomita Sheriff's Station - Commissioner Montañó**

This facility was visited on May 15, 2007, and found in satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Facility has laundry problems, linens are not being cleaned following guidelines.

**Central Juvenile - Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore**

This facility was visited on May 15, 2007, and was found in satisfactory condition.

**TNT Home For Boys - 102, #2 - Commissioner Montañó.**

This facility was visited on May 17, 2007 and found in less than satisfactory condition.

**Areas of Concern:** Screen door needs painting; rug needs shampooing; walls need painting. Chair Montañó said she will make a follow-up visit in the next 30 days.

**NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

**MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Montañó adjourned the meeting in memory of Yolanda King at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Davis*

Commission Services Staff